

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1096
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01753

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON SOUTH AFRICA'S AC-
CEPTANCE

1. WE HAVE NOW HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THOROUGHLY
THE SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL. MORE
IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO JUDGE THE
REACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO THAT RESPONSE.
IN OUR INITIAL CAUTION AGAINST QUICK AND UNQUALIFIED
COMMENT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT, WE SURMISED THAT
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THE INTERPRETATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN
RESPONSE, THOUGH OBVIOUSLY INTENDED FOR DOMESTIC CON-
SUMPTION, WERE LIKELY TO COMPLICATE OUR TASK OF
GAINING ACCEPTANCE BY SWAPO AND WITHIN THE UNITED
NATIONS. OUR FEARS HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE TRUE. AN
ALREADY SUSPICIOUS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS HAD ITS
SUSPICIONS REINFORCED.

2. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO TREAT SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT AS ACCEPTANCE CLOTHED WITH VERBAGE DESIGNED TO CAMOUFLAGE THE RETREAT THEY WERE PUBLICLY PLEDGED NEVER TO MAKE. NEVERTHELESS, SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERPRETATIONS LEFT UNCHALLENGED ARE LIKELY TO COME BACK TO HAUNT US, EVEN IF WE SUCCEED IN GETTING AGREEMENT FROM THE PARTIES.

3. IN THE SEVERAL STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE FIVE BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WE HAVE ALREADY ADDRESSED SOME OF THE MORE DISTURBING ELEMENTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE, AND IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS NOT SEEN FIT TO OBJECT. THESE STATEMENTS MAY BE SUFFICIENT, BUT WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS MAY BE NECESSARY. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY CAPE TOWN ON STEPS WHICH WE MIGHT URGE SOUTH AFRICA TO TAKE TO HELP AMELIORATE (WE CANNOT UNDO) THE DAMAGE ALREADY DONE.

4. FINALLY, IT DOES CERTAINLY NOT HELP THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS AGGRESSIVELY EMBARKED ON THE REPUGNANT DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OF VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE SWAPO POLITICAL APPARATUS. - THIS ACTION NOT ONLY REINFORCES CONCLUSIONS THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT SERIOUS BUT IT HAS ALSO STAINED STEYN, WHOSE OBJECTIVITY IS SO
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VITAL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WHICH OUR PROPOSAL ENVISIONS. YOUNG

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